

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2009

SWAC Members		
Mark Glazer, Chair	Marcia Harrington	Marcia Marks
David Frank, Vice Chair	Paula Jenson	Craig Simoneau
Leslie Alexander	Ed Lee	Steve Sprague
Steve Findley	Lee Levine	Ed Violette
Odell Hall		
County Staff		Guests
Angela Jordan, DSWs		
Peter Karasik, DSWs		
Steve Lezinski, DSWs		

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 7:30 p.m. on February 10, 2009, at the Executive Office Building Lobby Level Auditorium.

The Chair welcomed everyone at the meeting, and introductions were made. One future SWAC member was in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the January 13, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

Subcommittee/ Reports – No subcommittees met since the last meeting; however, the members of the yard trim committee had some comments. Mr. Levine mentioned that they are still in favor of having residential grass clippings banned from collection. Furthermore, they want residential composting to be strongly recommended. The pending transfer of the yard trim operation to the Gude Landfill site has the support of the yard trim committee.

The Chair reminded the committee that the meeting with the County Executive will be held on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at the Executive Office Building, on the second floor. The talking points to be addressed at the meeting are the budget, school recycling, and yard trim. The County Executive will also be acknowledged for his support of recycling initiatives, as well as for the improvements that have been made.

MAJOR PROGRAM TOPIC

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Peter Karasik and Steve Lezinski of the Division of Solid Waste Services on the “Management of Natural Wood Waste and Yard Trim” at the Montgomery County Transfer Station. There is an approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project to relocate yard trim receiving and processing operations to the Gude Landfill site. Design funds are approved, but construction funds have not yet been approved by the County Council. There was a potential conflict in moving the operation. The Montgomery County Government wanted to move the MCPS bus depot to the site. Mr. Karasik informed everyone that the school bus proposal was recently withdrawn; however, as a result of ground and surface water quality issues raised by the community during assessment of the school bus proposal, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is now requiring that some remediation work be done at the Gude Landfill site. Remediation issues will need to be addressed before the yard waste facility construction can move forward. Permits for the yard waste project are pending, but the project design is underway. The move will result in improved efficiency at the Transfer Station and the Recycling Center, a reduction in traffic, and a safer site for everyone. With the Gude Landfill site housing all yard trim activities, the cost will be a bit more, but the process of recycling green waste will be substantially improved.

The presentation consisted of the following components:

- Current Yard Trim Operation – Yard trim, a consistency of grass clippings, brush, and leaves, is received at the Transfer Station in the area adjacent to the Household Hazardous Waste area. Commercial and residential vehicles discard loose and brown-bagged yard trim in a designated spot. Grass clippings and leaves are transported by rail to the Compost Facility in Dickerson to be ingredients in compost. ComPro and LeafGro is the brand name for the compost made at the facility, which is sold in stores. Brush, tree branches and limbs, are moved by heavy equipment to the tub grinder to be ground into mulch. The mulch is available at several locations to the residents of Montgomery County at no charge, but most of the material is sold to a commercial vender. The proceeds from the sale of mulch are used to offset operating and equipment costs.
- Capital Improvement Project - The proposed area for the yard trim collection at the Gude Landfill site will span seven to eight acres, including the addition of a pond to collect storm water run-off. Plans for construction are under development. There will be opportunities to use the extra space to recycle some of the bulky wood for higher uses (i.e. firewood, furniture, etc.)
- Home Composting Encouraged - DSWS sends educational mailings twice per year to all 210,000 single-family households in the County to educate residents about composting and grasscycling. In addition, DSWS conducts composting and grasscycling workshops and demonstrations throughout the County, providing training to residents

on how to grasscycle and compost. DSWS has created a range of educational materials, including brochures, mailers, and door hangers, that provide information, guidance and recommendations for residents, property owners, and landscape contractors and service providers about grasscycling and composting. These materials include the recommendation that residents and/or property owners discuss the management of yard trim materials with their lawn care service provider and request contractors to grasscycle and/or compost. In addition, DSWS is developing partnerships with landscape service providers and with the Landscape Contractors Association of MD-DC-VA (LCA) to increase awareness of waste reduction of yard trim materials through grasscycling and backyard or on-site composting, and to distribute DSWS educational materials directly to their residential and commercial customers. Over 5,000 composting bins were provided to residents of the County at no charge to encourage them to compost their own yard waste in 2008. This will help decrease yard trim tonnage brought to the Transfer Station.

- System Capacity
 - On average, 180 vehicles bring in 300 tons of yard trim material daily. The tonnage of yard trim has escalated over the years, with the exception of a drought in 2007.
 - The Transfer Station receives about 100,000 tons of bulky wood/yard trim per year. Though a numerical tonnage limit is not in place, the quantity that is brought is limited by available space, operational requirements and fire prevention standards. The County is contractually limited to shipments of grass and leaves totaling 77,000 tons per year to be transported by rail to the composting facility in Dickerson, MD. The actual tonnage shipped is generally several thousand tons per year below that limit.
- On-Going Concerns at the Gude Landfill Site
 - Low-Level Ground Water Contamination from Storm Water Runoff – The addition of a pond will act as a sediment basin and quantity control system to limit storm water discharges to pre-development conditions.
 - Limited Service Water Contamination – MDE has given DSWS until April 30, 2009 to develop strategies for the remediation of the Gude Landfill site to reduce impacts on ground water and surface water.

- Differential Settling – The proposed development area will be surcharged with soil to accelerate any differential settling and stabilize the area for future construction. It may take a year for this process to occur.
- Landfill Gas Management – The landfills give off a lot of methane gas from the massive amounts of trash underground, which is continually decomposing. Currently, the gas is collected through a network of wells and pipes and burned off using an enclosed flare system. A gas-to-energy power plant is under construction to beneficially use some of the gas.
- Integration of Relocated Yard Trim/Bulky Wood with Potential Site Remediation Plans - Development of the yard waste area will need to be integrated with any site remediation required by MDE.

NEW BUSINESS

The Chair reminded the committee that the meeting with County Executive would be held on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 9pm. He called for three members to represent SWAC. The purpose of this meeting is to address any issues/concerns the committee might have. With the state of the economy, and the County's budget shortfall, the Chair reminded members not to "stir the pot" with any specific budgetary matters, but to instead thank Mr. Leggett for supporting the recycling efforts in Montgomery County. SWAC wants to have the following items addressed:

- Maintain Funding for FY2010 Budget
- MCPS Recycling
- Yard Trim Operations

Ms. Marks made a motion to recommend a ban on the use of plastic water bottles at all County board, committee, and commission meetings. The motion was defeated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

ACRONYMS

FY	Fiscal Year
MCPS	Montgomery County Public Schools
MDE	Maryland Department of the Environment
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE														
2008 ATTENDANCE														
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months	
Abralind, Jessica		X	X	X	X	X							-1	
Alexander, Leslie		X	X		X	X				X			-3	
Findley, Steve			X	X	X	X				X	X			
Frank, David	X	X	X	X		X				X	X		-1	
Glazer, Mark	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Guernica, Mimi	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Hall, Odell	X		X		X	X				X	X		-2	
Harrington, Marcia	X	X	X	X	X	X				X			-1	
Jenson, Paula		X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Lee, Ed		X	X	X	X	X					X		-1	
Levine, Lee	X	X	X			X				X	X		-2	
Marks, Marcia	X	X			X	X				X	X		-2	
McCarty, Sean	X	X		X	X						X		-3	
Simoneau, Craig	X	X	X	X	X					X	X		-1	
Sprague, Steve		X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Violette, Ed				X	X	X				X	X			

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE														
2009 ATTENDANCE														
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months	
Alexander, Leslie		X											-3	Jan '08 dropped off, still at 3 absences
Findley, Steve	X	X												
Frank, David	X	X											-1	
Glazer, Mark	X	X												
Hall, Odell		X											-2	
Harrington, Marcia	X	X											-1	
Jenson, Paula		X												
Lee, Ed	X	X											-1	
Levine, Lee	X	X											-2	
Marks, Marcia	X	X											-2	
Simoneau, Craig	X	X											-1	
Sprague, Steve	X	X												
Violette, Ed	X	X												